ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

METHOD AND APPARATUS TO REACTIVATE TCP CONNECTION WITH SLEEPING PEERS

A method, apparatus, and computer instructions for reactivating an existing connection to a remote data processing system. A data packet is created using a previously acknowledged sequence number for the connection. The sequence number is used to uniquely number data bytes sent in a connection, such as a TCP connection. With this sequence number, devices and components, such as routers and fire walls will forward the packet to the destination. A special data sequence, such as a MAC address of the remote data processing system repeated a selected number of times, is placed in the data packet. This special data sequence causes the remote data processing system to wake up from a sleep mode when received by the remote data processing system. The data packet is sent to the remote data processing system using the existing connection. The use of a subnet directed broadcast is avoided. Thus, problems associated with routing wake up packets are avoided.